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CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A television set-top terminal, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer program code means; and

means for executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) for accessing and managing multiple resources at the terminal, wherein:

the API provides a resource package for registering the available resources at the terminal, a management package for managing states of the resources, and a registry package for storing objects that represent the resources.
2. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

the management package manages the states of the resources according to an ITU-T X.731 standard for state management.
3. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the available resources include at least one of:

a tuner, a modem, a database, a plug-in module, a cable, a software module, a network interface card, and a conditional access module.

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4. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the API provides a resource registry for maintaining a record of resource managers that provide access to individual resources.
5. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API is independent of an operating system and hardware of the terminal.
6. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API groups resources of the same type, and manages the grouped resources as a group.
7. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API monitors behavior of the resources, and attaches corresponding management information to the resources.
8. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
said API enables the resources to advertise their respective states to at least one application at the terminal.
9. (Original) The terminal of claim 8, wherein:
said API enables the application to access the advertised states of the advertising resources.
10. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

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said API enables administrative locking and unlocking of the resources.

11. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective alarm statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

12. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective availability statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

13. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective procedural statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

14. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective operational states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

15. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective administrative states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

16. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

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said API enables the resources to advertise respective usage states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

17. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

The resources are used for downloadable applications at the terminal.

18. (Previously presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the applications include at least one of:

video on demand (VOD), audio on demand, pay-per-view, interactive shopping, electronic commerce, electronic program guides, Internet browsers, telephony services, stock ticker, weather data, travel information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, voting, and mail services, where said mail services include at least one of: text e-mail, voice mail, audio mail, and video mail.

19. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

The applications enable at least one of Internet connectivity and Internet-based telephony.

20. (Original) A method for implementing a software architecture for a television set-top terminal, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer readable medium having computer program code means;
and

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executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) for accessing and managing multiple resources at the terminal; wherein:

the API provides a resource package for registering the available resources at the terminal, a management package for managing states of the resources, and a registry package for storing objects that represent the resources.